

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 110

Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza

January 13, 2003

An act to add Title 6.6 (commencing with Section 13910 to, and to add a title healing to Part 4 of, the Penal Code, relating to child protection.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 110, as introduced, Oropeza. Child Protection Safety Act of 2003.

Existing law makes it a crime to kidnap a child.

This bill, the Child Protection Safety Act of 2003, would set forth legislative findings and declarations demonstrating why it is fitting and proper and within the public interest for the State of California to do whatever is necessary to combat child abductions and to mount fast, effective, and coordinated release of life-saving information on the identity of missing children.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 6.6 (commencing with Section 13910) is
2 added to Part 4 of the Penal Code, to read:
3

1 TITLE 6.6. CHILD PROTECTION SAFETY ACT OF 2003

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3 13910. This title shall be known, and may be cited, as the
4 Child Protection Safety Act of 2003.

5 13920. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the
6 following:

7 (a) Child kidnapping and abduction are unconscionable and
8 horrendous crimes.

9 (b) Parents, and all concerned adults, must be ever alert and
10 vigilant to protect children, who by nature are unsuspecting and
11 trusting, from those who would prey on them.

12 (c) Despite all prevention efforts, reports of child kidnappings,
13 abductions, and missing or endangered children seem to be on the
14 rise.

15 (d) Experts and law enforcement officials agree that the most
16 critical moments in the search for a missing child are the minutes
17 immediately after the disappearance. Based on experience, law
18 enforcement officials agree if a kidnapped child is not found
19 within two hours, the chance of recovering that child alive
20 decreases tremendously.

21 (e) In kidnapping cases, law enforcement officers assume that
22 kidnapped and abducted children disappear at the rate of one mile
23 per minute.

24 (f) The ability to create instantly high-quality photos and
25 posters of missing children and to disseminate them quickly
26 throughout the community, the region, the state, and even the
27 nation is one of the most effective tools available to law
28 enforcement agencies engaged in child recovery operations. Color
29 photographs are significantly more valuable than black and white
30 photographs.

31 (g) Technology is now available that enables law enforcement
32 agencies to mount fast, effective, and coordinated responses to
33 reports of kidnapped, missing, abducted, or otherwise endangered
34 children that involve police agencies, the media, and the
35 community at large.

36 (h) One of society's greatest responsibilities is to protect
37 children.

38 (i) When an estimated 2300 at-risk children are reported
39 missing every day in the United States, this crime constitutes one
40 of the primary threats to child safety and to the sense of security

1 and well-being every family deserves and should rightfully
2 expect. It is both a waste of precious time and prohibitively
3 expensive for parents to try to disseminate identifying
4 photographs to all regional and state law enforcement agencies
5 that can be the difference between life and death for a kidnapped
6 or abducted child.

7 (j) It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper, and within the
8 public interest, for the State of California, to do whatever is
9 necessary to combat child abductions and to mount fast, effective,
10 and coordinated release of life-saving information on the identity
11 of missing children.

12 SEC. 2. A title heading is added to Part 4 (commencing with
13 Section 11006) of the Penal Code, immediately preceding Section
14 13980, to read:

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16 TITLE 6.9. COMPUTER FORENSICS CENTER

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